Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society
KERN CHAPTER

JANUARY 2020

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EVENTS

JANUARY

11 – Pruning Demonstration, 9 am
16 – Annual Potluck, 6 pm
Program, 7 pm

FEBRUARY

20 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
Program, 7pm

MARCH

19 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
Program, 7pm
26 – "Ditch Your Lawn"
Bakersfield College, Levan Center
28 – Native Garden Tour

APRIL

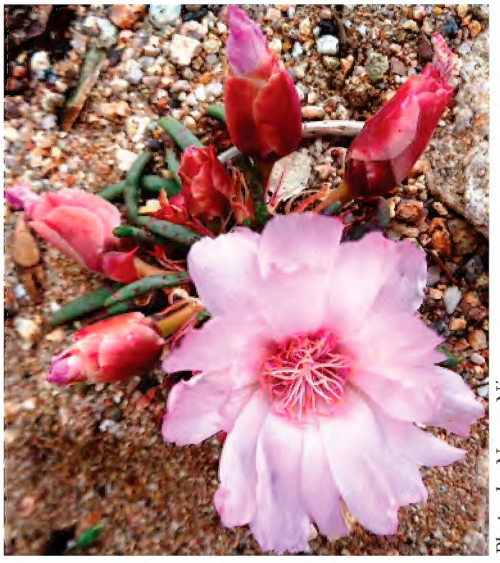
2 – "Ditch Your Lawn"
Bakersfield College, Levan Center
16 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
Program, 7pm

Super Bloom 2019: A Photo Journal – Part 3

by Nancy Nies

IN FOLLOWING CALIFORNIA'S 2019 "SUPER BLOOM" FROM THE coast to the mountains last summer, I realized that adding a third installment to my wildflower photo journal was in order.

June 1 — *Lewisia redivida* (bitterroot). Botanist **Pam DeVries** led a Kern CNPS field trip to Lockwood Valley (Mt. Pinos area), where we saw lots of bitterroot, most with a single delicate flower — pale pink or white — and several buds. Also plentiful was *Allium howellii var. clokeyi* (Mt. Pinos onion) with its cream-colored flower heads. Among other finds that day were the purple *Phacelia davidsonii* (Davidson's phacelia), the pink *Sidalcea sparsifolia* (California checker mallow), and the pale-lavender *Phacelia exilia* (Transverse Range phacelia).



Photos by Nancy Nies

Lewisia redivida (bitterroot), Lockwood Valley – **June 1**

July 5 — *Clarkia rubicunda* (ruby chalice clarkia). When I visited my cousin in Marin County over the Fourth of July, we took a favorite walk on nearby Ring Mountain. Blooming in early July were *Lupinus microcarpus* (chick lupine), *Microsteris gracilis* (slender phlox), *Erythranthe guttata* (seep monkeyflower), and *Toxicoscordion fremontii* (Fremont's star lily).The most eye-catching flower, however, was *Clarkia rubicunda*.

Clarkia rubicunda (ruby chalice clarkia), Ring Mountain – **July 5**

July 27 — *Iris missouriensis* (western blue flag). **Diane Mitchell**, **Paul** and I made the trip up to the Chula Vista parking area on Mt. Pinos to see how the irises in the adjoining meadow were doing. They were past their peak, but there

Iris missouriensis (western blue flag), Mt. Pinos – **July 27**

were still quite a few in bloom. Also abundant were *Erythranthe guttata* (seep monkeyflower) in marshy places and *Pericidridia californica* (California yampah) and *Penstemon labrosus* (southern scarlet penstemon) in drier areas. Walking to the picnic area, we saw much more of the penstemon and a dozen or so *Calochortus invenustus* (plain mariposa lily) blooms.

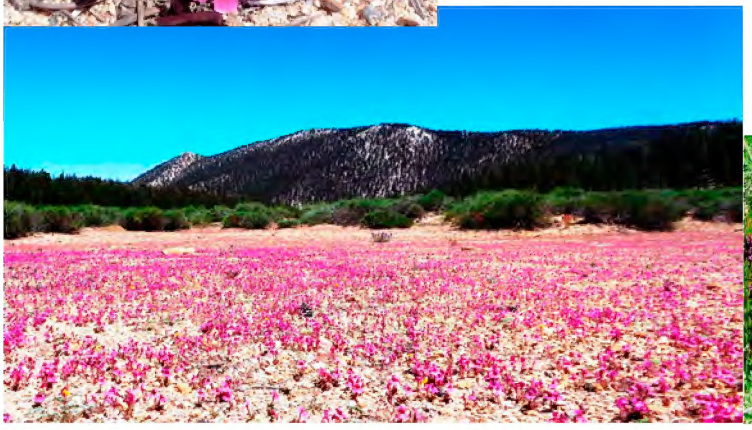
August 1 — *Diplacus nanus* (dwarf monkeyflower) sensu Thompson. On our drive up 395 to Yosemite, we detoured into the Sierra to visit Horseshoe Meadow. There, we witnessed dwarf monkeyflower turning the surrounding sandy areas a vivid magenta color. In the meadow, there were large areas of purple *Penstemon rydbergii* (meadow penstemon), peach-colored *Castilleja* sp. (paintbrush), deep-pink *Primula jeffreyi* (Sierra shootingstar) and rusty-red *Rumex californicus* (California dock).

Monardella odoratissima subsp. *pallida* (pennyroyal) close-up, Heart Lake trail – **August 2**

August 2 — *Monardella odoratissima* subsp. *pallida* (pennyroyal). Our next stop was Mammoth, where we hiked up to Heart Lake. Catching our eye along the trail were the vibrant reds of *Castilleja* sp. (paintbrush) and *Ipomopsis aggregata* subsp. *aggregata* (scarlet gilia), the bright yellow of *Wyethia mollis* (woolly mule ears), and the showy white of *Calochortus leichtlinii* (Leichtlin's mariposa lily). *Monardella odoratissima* subsp. *pallida* (pennyroyal) was also a common sight. At one point, it created an irresistible photo op, the lavender of its flower heads complementing the soft yellow of the *Castilleja* sp. growing with it, against a backdrop of snow-capped Sierra peaks.

Monardella odoratissima subsp. *pallida* (pennyroyal), Heart Lake trail – **August 2**

Below Left: *Diplacus nanus* (dwarf monkeyflower *close-up), Horseshoe Meadow* – **August 1**
Below: *Diplacus nanus* (dwarf monkeyflower in sandy areas), Horseshoe Meadow – **August 1**



August 6 — *Pedicularis attollens* (little elephant's head). The hike to Gardisky Lake near Tioga Pass is one of our favorites, the steep trail offering both spectacular views and a profusion of wildflowers. Besides the expected paintbrush, pennyroyal, mariposa lilies and sulfur buckwheat, we saw something

Below Left and Right: *Pedicularis attollens* (little elephant's head), Gardisky Lake – **August 6**

Paul Gipe examines a *Phlox* sp. atop a ridge overlooking Gardisky Lake – **August 6**

new on our 2019 ascent — *Triteleia ixioides* subsp. *anilina* (mountain pretty face). When the trail leveled out, we strolled through a wild garden of *Iris missouriensis*, *Allium validum* (swamp onion), and *Dasiphora fruticosa* (shrubby cinquefoil). Among the colorful flowers awaiting us at the lake were the bright-pink *Kalmia polifolia* (bog laurel) and — a first sighting for us there — an abundance of the red-purple *Pedicularis attollens*.

August 7 — *Aquilegia pubescens* (Sierra columbine). Somewhere, I read that botany professor and longtime Yosemite ranger-naturalist **Carl Sharsmith**'s favorite place to take his students was the Dana Plateau trail which begins at Tioga Lake. The masses of flowers — paintbrush, mountain heather, swamp onion, several species of lupine, at least two each of aster and larkspur, and more — make up for the strenuous climb. The highlight of our 2019 hike, however,

Aquilegia pubescens (Sierra columbine), Dana Plateau trail – **August 7**

was to be found among the boulders in a wash above tree-line — *Aquilegia pubescens* (Sierra columbine) at peak bloom. Where previously we had seen only one or two plants, in 2019 we saw dozens, each bearing many white flowers.

August 18 — *Gentiana calycosa* (Rainier pleated gentian). On our annual Kern CNPS camp-out at Horse Meadow, sightings included *Penstemon rostriflorus* (Bridge's penstemon), *Eriogonum umbellatum var. nevadensis* (sulfur buckwheat), *Geranium californicum* (California geranium), *Solidago* sp. (goldenrod), *Castilleja* sp. (paintbrush) and *Helenium bigelovii* (Bigelow's sneezeweed). The camp-out's star attraction, though, was *Gentiana calycosa* — a beautiful blue gentian.

California's "super bloom" of 2019 lasted from early spring to late summer, extended from sea level to 11,000 feet, and gave us fortunate Californians the opportunity to see many of our state's wildflowers at their best. ✿

Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, January 16, 2020
ANNUAL POTLUCK- 6 pm
PROGRAM - 7 pm
Presenter: **Jon Keeley,** USGS,
Topic: *Nexus Between Wildfire: Climate Change & Population Growth in California*

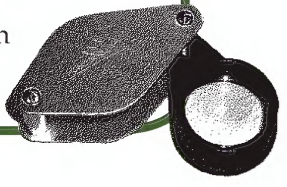
Thursday, February 20, 2020 - 7 pm
Presenter: TBA

Thursday, March 19, 2020 - 7 pm
Presenter: TBA

Suggestions for presenters and topics?
Contact **Paul Gipe** pgipe@igc.org or
Richard Spjut richspjut@gmail.com

All chapter meetings are held the **3rd Thursday** of each month usually at 1300 17th Street, Room 1A or 1B, Bakersfield, CA. Check website for any change of venue.

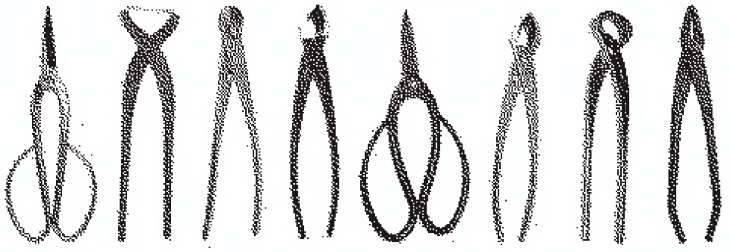
Meeting times:
6 pm — Discussion groups on plant identification and native plant gardening
7 pm — Program presentation



Winter Pruning Demonstration for Native Plants
Saturday, January 11th — 9:00 am

by Dale Gradek

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHETHER YOU should prune your native plants? Why would you need to do that, since they grow wild in nature? If you decide a pruning is needed, when should it be done? And how do you prune the different types of plants? Do they need a heavy pruning…or a modest pruning…or something in between? Also, what happens if you don't prune your native plants? Members **Dale** and **Patty Gradek** have a native garden



in their front yard at **4224 Christmas Tree Lane**. On **Saturday, January 11th** at **9:00 am** Dale will demonstrate how to make those decisions and prune various types of native plants. He will demonstrate how to prune, how much to prune and show examples in his garden of before and after particular types of plants have been pruned.

If you think it would be useful to learn a few things about pruning (which also applies to non-native plants) come and join us. No RSVP is necessary!

The workshop will be cancelled in the event of rain. ✿

California Native Plant Society

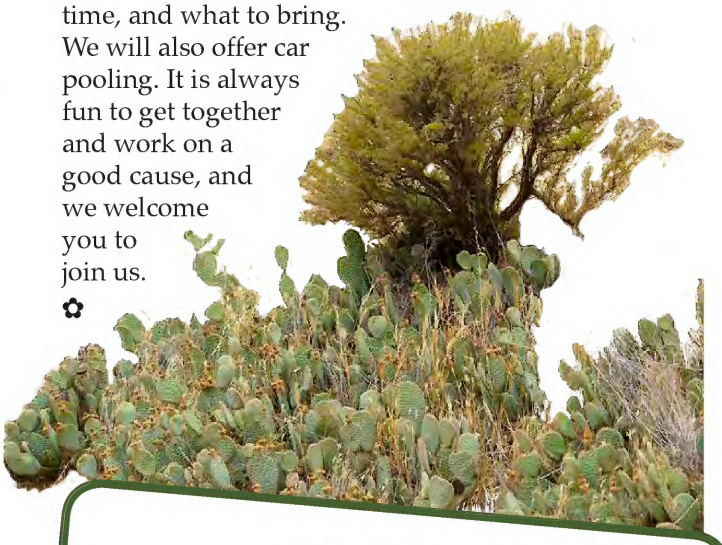
CNPS is the leader for providing reliable information on California native plants and plant conservation. Comprehensive information about California's flora and vegetation communities is available throughout the state for conservation and educational purposes. CNPS's leadership influences personal ethics and actions, as well as public policy for native plant protection.

Bakersfield Cactus Transplants
Caliente Status Report ~

by Lucy Clark

WE HAVE GOOD NEWS! NO NEED FOR watering our Bako Cacti at this time!

But after all of this rain, we will probably need to **weed** them in January. If you would like to join us, and help to promote the growth of our transplants, please email Lucy Clark at lucyg391@gmail.com, and I will alert you to the date and time, and what to bring. We will also offer car pooling. It is always fun to get together and work on a good cause, and we welcome you to join us. ✿



Thank You to:

… **Monica Tudor** and **Dorie Giragosian** (and many assistants) for their enthusiasm, diligence, and attention to detail in orchestrating another successful **Fall Plant Sale**.

… **Ellen & Brian Cypher** for their entertaining and informative presentation on our often overlooked San Joaquin desert

… **Paul Gipe** and **Clyde Golden** for much-appreciated and needed instruction on how to use wildflower apps and *Calflora*.

… **Ron Dietz** for a fun and informative education in a subject few of us knew anything about — hydro-seeding.

… **Jorge Ochoa** for the second part of his entertaining presentation about the Griffith Fire recovery efforts. ✿

Wildflower Field Trips
Spring & Summer – 2020

by Patty Gradek

WITH THESE NICE RAINY DAYS WE'VE BEEN having, do you find yourself day-dreaming about seeing spring wildflowers? I know I do!

Many of our members enjoy visiting local areas with beautiful displays of spring wildflowers. I can hardly wait for March and April when our wildflowers start to bloom!

In this area, the valley, lowlands and desert areas can start blooming in March and early April. Many mid-elevation areas are wonderful to visit in April and May. The southern Sierra, Tehachapi and Los Padres National Forest areas can provide dazzling displays in May, June and July.

We're asking our members to identify potential locations and to PLAN field trips this coming season. Patty Gradek will be the keeper of the official calendar so we have a nice selection of field trip opportunities this spring and summer.

Some of the areas we've been to in past years:

- **Carrizo Plain National Monument**
- **Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge**
- **Wind Wolves Preserve**
- **Mill Creek** and other areas in the Kern Canyon
- **Sand Ridge** near the mouth of the Canyon
- **Kern National Wildlife Refuge**
- **Red Rock Canyon State Park**
- **Short Canyon** and other **Mojave Desert** areas
- **Nature Conservancy** properties near Caliente
- **Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreational Area**
- **Fort Tejon State Park**
- **Old Stage Road** near Greenhorn
- **California Living Museum (CALM)**
- **Las Pilitas Nursery** in Santa Margarita
- **Case Mountain/Salt Creek** area in Tulare County near Three Rivers
- and many other areas.

We could return to any of those areas or go to some new places. Patty can help with suggestions of new places for field trips.

We enjoy field trips that are a few hours to all day long. Please let **Patty Gradek** (*pattygradek@gmail.com*) know where and when you would like to plan a field trip. She will help you through the steps of doing that such as contacting the agency or organization with jurisdiction for the area to ask for permission to conduct a field trip.

It's also good to ask if they have a plant expert who could accompany our group on a field trip.

Patty will let you know what information is needed for the *Mimulus Memo*. You would also receive the RSVP's from those who want to attend, let them know they are on the list, and answer any questions they have.

Thanks for your enthusiasm and willingness to help plan some delightful and memorable field trips this next spring. ✿

Red Rock Canyon State Park

Native Garden Notes: Fall to Winter

by Monica Tudor

RECENTLY I WAS RE-READING "*CARE & MAINtenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*" to find out how to take care of the *Encelia farinosa* (Incensio) that was growing in the front yard. I had noticed the plant was growing taller and had started getting flower buds once the weather had cooled. Turns out I had accidentally picked the right time to trim it (late November). The instructions say to "*cut back to 4 inch stubs whether it is blooming or not, or it will look disheveled.*"

Even though I have no problem cutting many other plants back, *Zauschneria* (California fuchsia), *Aster occidentalis* (Western aster), *Muhlenbergia* (deer grass), it was hard for me to follow the directions of experts. Who knew I was so contrary? Anyway, I should have followed the advice given in the book. The *Encelia* does indeed look raggedy. So now I need to decide whether to trim it properly at this late date, or let it go until next year. Lucky for me it is towards the back of the yard and somewhat hidden by a pine tree.

It isn't time to trim the *Zauschnerias* yet. I like to wait till the first frost, but certainly by the first week of January, frost or not. The *Zauschnerias* were great this year. The Flaming Red Penny was so thickly covered with blooms, you could hardly see the leaves. Even the petite *Zauschneria cana* surprised with two successive waves of flowers.

The *Penstemon pseudospectablis* (desert penstemon)

Zauschneria (Flaming Red Penny)

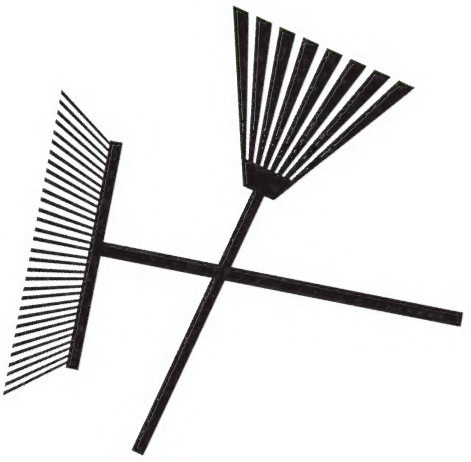
Zauschneria cana

loves its current location. I had one that bloomed nicely in spring and early summer, but it died at that sandy location when the temperatures stayed over 100 degrees for days on end. However, the second *pseudospectablis* is just a few feet away, with the exact same soil and watering conditions, but gets light afternoon shade from the palo verde tree. It is growing multiple branches and looks great. The only trimming it got was to remove the dried flower stalks. I saved the seeds and have planted them- now to see if they will sprout!

The *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy) might need

Romneya coulteri (Matilija poppy)

severe trimming or not. If it is happy and left untrimmed, it will easily grow 7-8 feet tall and wide! If it is in a location it isn't too pleased with, it will be much smaller, perhaps 3-4 feet tall and wide. (I have some in each category.) I finally had to trim one of the Matilija poppies that was happy, since it had grown taller than the roof line and was starting to take over its section of the back yard. The trimming hasn't hurt it at all and it does look better for being trimmed. On the other hand, the other happy poppy which was not trimmed is most definitely looking scraggly. I went ahead and trimmed the unhappy poppy so now it isn't just a half dozen long sticks. Now it is a half dozen short sticks.



Dale Gradek will be conducting a pruning demonstration to show how to trim/prune native plants. It will be at his house, **4224 Christmas Tree Lane** on **Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am** I'm planning on being there! ✿

"Ditch Your Lawn"

A California native plant garden is water-saving, low maintenance, and great for the environment. *Ditch Your Lawn* is for anyone who wants information on how to bring California's native plants into their landscape, whether they want to do a full-on yard transformation or a flowerbed.

Students will learn:

- Options for getting rid of a lawn
- How to determine soil type
- Irrigation options for saving water
- Plant selection and maintenance.

A field trip to an established native plant garden is included. Taught by **Dale Gradek** and **Monica Tudor**, **California Native Plant Society** members and experienced native plant gardeners.

Class schedule: Thursday March 26 and **Thursday April 2, 2020, 6:00-7:30 pm** with a **field trip** to an established native plant garden on **Saturday March 28, 9:00 am**

Registration begins **Sunday, January 5, 2020** at **10:00 am on-line** at: *bakersfieldcollege.edu/levaninstitute* or register by calling the Levan office: **(661) 395-4431**, or registering via mail or in person. ✿

President's Message:
The Scientific Name for Greasebush in Kern County:
Forsellesia vs. *Glossopetalon*

by Rich Spjut

ONE SPECIES OF SHRUB IN KERN COUNTY that we have yet to see on our Chapter field trips, since I joined the CNPS in 2009, is greasebush (Crossosomataceae), not to be confused with greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, Sarcobataceae, formerly Chenopodiaceae) found mostly outside Kern

Photo courtesy James R. Shevock, copyright 1981

Forsellesia nevadensis, Erskine Creek, Piute Mountains, California, showing tongue-like petals of flowers.

County except for three reports, two from Edwards Air Force Base and one from the "Caliente Quad" "near Bakersfield." The latter appears to be "Adobe Station," a former rail stop just south of Hwy 223 along Adobe Road and west of Hwy 99, collected by **L. R. Short** and **I. H. Johnson**, June 6, 1934 (CCH).

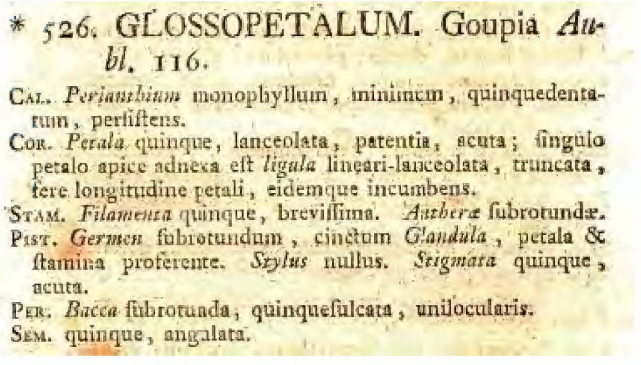
Photos by Rich Spjut

Photo of Laura Peak as seen from road along Erskine Creek

Greasebush has been known in recent floras and publications by the genus name of either *Glossopetalon* (Shevock in Jepson Man. 1993, 2012, in Crossosomataceae, *G. spinescens*) or *Forsellesia* (Munz 1959, in Celastraceae; Shevock 1984, *F. nevadensis*). This shrub had not been recognized as occuring in Kern County (It was not in the Twisselmann 1967 flora). However, there was a record from Mt. Laura in the Piute Mountains of a specimen collected by **C. A. Purpus** in May 1897 (Jepson 1923, without reference to county; Shevock 1984). It was subsequently rediscovered there and from nearby canyons by **James Shevock** during March 1981. He reported five populations mostly at mid elevations, 1100–1300 m (CCH), the largest number of plants on Laura Peak. Shevock, during his presentation at our annual 2018 potluck meeting, mentioned *Forsellesia* while showing a slide of Lake Isabella from Laura Peak where another perennial that we have not seen on field trips — *Cryptantha confertiflora* (Boraginaceae) — occurs.

What is the correct genus name for greasebush in Kern County according to the **International Code of Nomenclature** (ICN, https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php)? Article (Art.) numbers cited herein are in reference to the ICN.

The genus *Glossopetalon* was described by **Asa Gray** in 1853 from a specimen reportedly collected near Frontera, New Mexico, possibly from the southern end of the Organ Mountains — the species named *G. spinescens*. The genus name, of Greek origin, refers to the tongue-like shape of the petals. *Glossopetalum* was also a genus name given by **J. C. D. Schreber** in 1789 to another plant(Carl von Linné, *Genera Plantarum*, ed. 8, I: 205), with the earlier name, *Goupia* Aublet (1775) was an alternate name thus illegitimate (Snip from BHL shown below).



* 526. GLOSSOPETALUM. Goupia *Aubl.* 116.

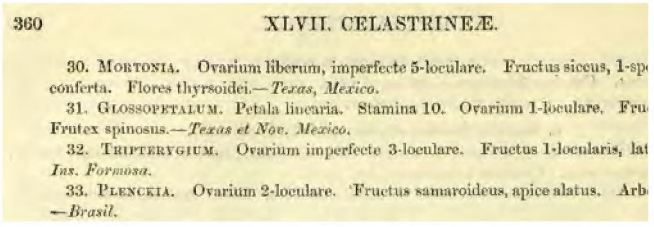
CAL. *Perianthium* monophyllum, minimum, quinquedentatum, perſiſtens.
COR. *Petala* quinque, lanceolata, patentia, acuta; ſingulo petalo apice adnexa eſt *ligula* lineari-lanceolata, truncata, fere longitudine petali, eidemque incumbens.
STAM. *Filamenta* quinque, breviſſima. *Antheræ* ſubrotundæ.
PIST. *Germen* ſubrotundum, cinctum *Glandula*, petala & ſtamina proferente. *Stylus* nullus. *Stigmata* quinque, acuta.
PER. *Bacca* ſubrotunda, quinquefulcata, unilocularis.
SEM. quinque, angulata.

The slight difference in endings (***um*** v. **on**) indicates that one is Greek, the other Latin (Brown 1954, petalon; Stearn 1983, petalum; Holmgren 1988).

Edward Greene in 1893 (Erythea 1:206) created a

new substitute name, *Forsellesia,* for *Glossopetalon*, in honor of a Swedish botanist, **Jacob Henric Forselles** (1785–1855), because he regarded Gray's name to be a later homonym (Art. 53.2), which according to ICN, is illegitimate (Art. 53.1); i.e., the same name cannot be used for two different plant taxa, in which case the earlier genus name has priority. However, not all botanists agreed with Greene and continued to use *Glossopetalon*, probably not realizing that in G. Bentham and J. D. Hooker, *Genera Plantarum* (1883), the suffix was changed to conform to Latin, as seen in the following extracted from BHL.

Art. "32.2 states: Names or epithets published with


360 XLVII. CELASTRINEÆ.

30. Mortonia. Ovarium liberum, imperfecte 5-loculare. Fructus siccus, 1-sp
conferta. Flores thyrsoidei.—*Texas, Mexico.*
31. Glossopetalum. Petala linearia. Stamina 10. Ovarium 1-loculare. Fru
Frutex spinosus.—*Texas et Nov. Mexico.*
32. Tripterygium. Ovarium imperfecte 3-loculare. Fructus 1-locularis, lat
Ins. Formosa.
33. Plenckia. Ovarium 2-loculare. Fructus samaroideus, apice alatus. Arb
—*Brasil.*

an improper Latin termination but otherwise in accordance with this Code are regarded as validly published; they are to be changed to accord with Art. 16–19, 21, 23, and 24, without change of the author citation or date (see also Art. 60.12)." Art. 20 recommendation (20a): "Use Latin terminations insofar as possible."

Margaret Ensign, a student of **Phillip Munz**, who revised the genus *Forsellesia* in 1942, pointed out that in order to use the later name given by **A. Gray**, the spelling would have to be conserved. Art. 14.11: "*A name may be conserved in order to preserve a particular spelling or gender...*" This is usually done by submitting a proposal for publication in the journal *Taxon*. **The International Botanical Congress** meets every six years to decide on proposals, which include amendments to the code. The code is "*retroactive unless expressly limited.*"

But botanists can be impatient. In August of the same year, 1942, **Harold St. John** rejected *Forsellesia* (Proc Biol. Soc. 55: 109-112) argueing that Schreber's addition of *Glossopetalum* over *Goupia* was illegitimate. Art. 53.1, Note 2: "*A validly published earlier homonym, even if illegitimate, rejected under Art. 56 or F.7, or otherwise generally treated as a synonym, causes rejection of any later homonym that is not conserved, protected, or sanctioned (but see Art. F.3.3).*"

Brummitt (Taxon 42: 696–97, 1993), made reference to an unpublished submission for review by the **Nomenclatural Committee** (one person committee, Brummitt) on the controversial spelling, reviewed under Art. 53.4, which states: "*When it is doubtful whether names of their epithets are sufficiently alike to be confused, a request for a decision may be submitted to the General Committee...A recommendation may then be put forward.*" Brummitt then reported that the Nomenclatural Committee found the names *Glossopetalon* and *Glossopetalum* not confusable. However, this decision is contradicted by the literary history in which both *Forsellesia* and *Glossopetalon* had been used equally (50:50). Thus, for anyone to say that *Glossopetalon* and *Glossopetalum* were not confusing, after they had been in confusion for the past 108 years, is hypocritical.

Photo courtesy James Shevock

Photo from Laura Peak looking towards Lake Isabella

The conclusion here is that *Glossopetalon* is currently illegitimate according to Art. 14.11, 32.1, 53.1, because *Glossopetalum* A. Gray is a homonym for the earlier *Glossopetalum* Schreber. Unless the original spelling (*Glossopetalon*) is conserved (Art. 53.1), *Forsellesia* remains the correct genus name, and in current use (Ackerfield 2015; Mimulus Memo: Mar 2015, Sep 2018).

The genus *Forsellesia* has more than one species; the one in Kern County has been treated as *F. nevadensis* (Ensign 1942; Munz 1959; Shevock 1984). ✿

GENERAL REFERENCES

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California Native Plant Society
KERN CHAPTER

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The Kern Chapter of the

California Native Plant Society

California Native Plant Society meets
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Chapter website: kern.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons — professional and amateur — with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Fremontia, *a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the* Bulletin, *a statewide report of activities and schedules; and* The Mimulus Memo, *the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.*

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